

▯ Discusses Renewable Energy Benefits in Stimulus Plan, Tours NMSU Microgrid

Las Cruces, NM—Monday, Congressman Harry Teague convened local renewable energy leaders for a briefing and discussion of the renewable energy components of the stimulus plan. Congressman Teague sponsored legislation to extend the renewable energy production tax credit that was incorporated into the plan. The plan also includes \$11 billion to transform the nation's electricity systems through the Smart Grid Investment Program, \$8 billion in loan guarantees for renewable energy and transmission, home energy efficiency tax incentives, and \$500 million to train workers for green collar jobs.

"I convened this discussion today because I wanted to make sure that our renewable energy leaders in Southern New Mexico are aware of the benefits in the stimulus so they are poised to take advantage of what it has to offer," said Congressman Harry Teague. "This plan provides critical investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency that will both stimulate the economy and lay the groundwork for long term economic health and energy security," said Congressman Harry Teague."

NMSU's School of Engineering, Rio Valley Bio Fuels, Dona Ana Community College, Positive Energy, Las Cruces Homebuilders Association, NMSU's Institute for Energy and the Environment and others were represented at the event. Las Cruces City Councilor and Nathan Small helped moderate the event.

"Congressman Teague's willingness to bring renewable energy leaders together today shows his commitment to our community and to making Southern New Mexico a leader in Renewable Energy" said Small.

After the discussion the group toured NMSU's Microgrid project. Research produced by the Microgrid is an example of research projects that will be used for the Smart Grid Investment Program.

The bill passed out of the House on Wednesday, January 26th and is being considered in the Senate this week.

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